

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

APRIL 1946      PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 13, NO. 9

## MONTHLY MEMO TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS

**Thank You!** First of all there are a number of thank-you's I wish to say to you:

- *Thank you* for your splendid response about men members and teachers.
- *Thank you* for your response to the request for magazine subscriptions.
- *Thank you* for the support you have been giving to the school lunch bills before Congress. As you know the House bill was passed but with some drastic changes; the Senate bill passed in its original form. Now the two

bills are before a conference committee which so far has not succeeded in reconciling the differences. However, it would seem safe to predict that there will soon be some aid for the school lunch program.

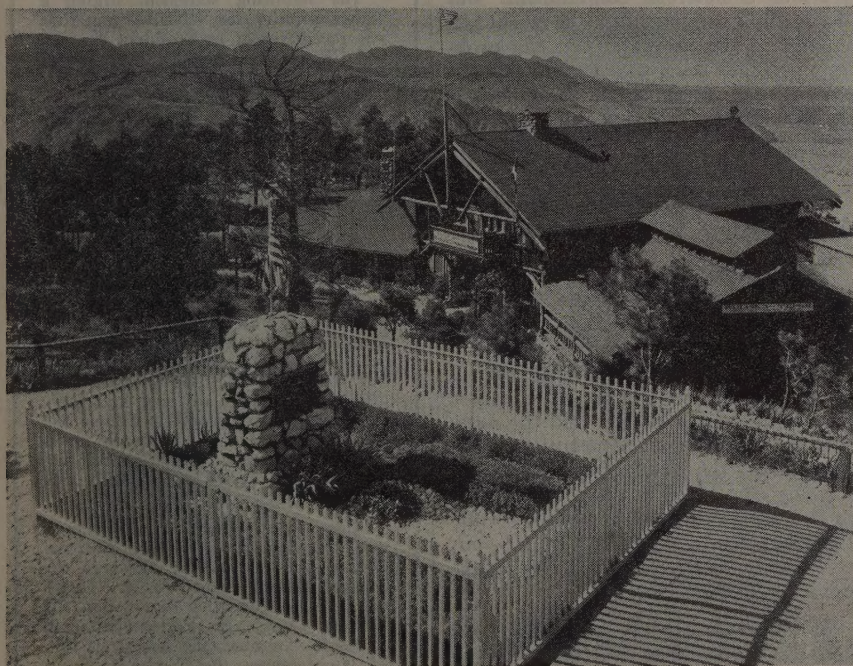
- *Thank you* for the many replies to my letter that accompanied the report of the organization for last year. I have learned so much about you, what you are doing, what problems you face, and what a lot of fine people make up the N.C.P.T.
- *Thank each of you* personally for the hundreds of greetings that have come from those of you who learned that I slipped on the ice (on my way to a Founders Day meeting) and fractured an ankle in two places. For a time I managed to answer each kind card or letter, but I could not quite keep up with so many replies. I still hope to answer them, but in the meantime will you please know that I have appreciated each and every note and greeting card which came to me.

**Food.** Have you and your family ever been really hungry—day after day, month after month, with never enough for even your minimum needs? Have you seen your children stunted in growth, weak and listless because of hunger? Nearly a half billion of the world's population is in this condition! In addition many of them have few clothes, no shelter except perhaps the corner of a partially demolished building, and little hope for the future.

At the invitation of the Department of State your president (on crutches) attended the council meeting of UNRRA, which opened in Atlantic City on March 16. For those who were there, life can never be quite the same again for a long time. We now realize only too well that the aftermath of war is more horrible than war itself. We heard the representatives of Greece, China, India, Yugoslavia, and many other nations tell of conditions in their countries, and we saw movies of what life is like these days in many other parts of the world.

We talked to the men and women who have been working in these countries as part of the UNRRA organization. We know that our war tasks are not finished until we do our part in helping to meet these dire needs—needs that we cannot begin to comprehend even when we see pictures and hear firsthand experiences relating to them. These fathers and mothers from other lands are responsible for the children who tomorrow will be contemporaries of our own children in trying to build a sane and peaceful world. As insurance for the future of our own youth, in addition to our basic belief that we must be concerned about "the least of these," let us respond to the call that has gone forth begging us to eat a little less of certain foods so that other human beings may be kept alive.

The President of the United States has appealed to the National Congress as one of the large groups that can be depended upon to work for the common good and to aid in shaping public opinion. We have promised that we would help to the utmost, but that means EACH of us must do our share. (See page 5 for further information about this important subject.)



Tomb of William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody in Denver Mountain Park. This is one of the interesting spots that delegates will visit on a tour planned through the courtesy of the Denver County Parent-Teacher Council.



**UNESCO.** Progress is being made in organizing the educational, scientific, and cultural interests of the United Nations for cooperation on an international scale. Recently your president attended a meeting in Washington at which plans for American participation and means by which nongovernmental agencies might cooperate with UNESCO were discussed. In each house of Congress resolutions have been introduced for ratifying the basic charter adopted in London last November. When a sufficient number of nations have ratified it, the organization can begin to function actively. Many of you wish to further education, both here and abroad, and to develop plans for building a program of better international understanding. Exchanges of teachers and students and correspondence between our young folks and those in other countries are some of the things being planned when UNESCO becomes a functioning organization. Let your congressmen know of your desire for early United States ratification of H.J.Res.305 and S.J.Res. 135.

**Membership.** Our books in the National Office close on April 15, and we are eagerly waiting to see what our total membership will be for this year. Have you sent in all your dues so they may be counted in this year's total?

**Convention.** Much planning now under way will make the Denver convention outstanding. We hope to bring you leaders of national repute to discuss the large problems of the day as they relate to the welfare of our children and youth in the home, the school, and the community. We are planning a variety of workshops where you may receive help on organization matters. On two afternoons there will be sectional meetings instead of general sessions in order to give as much time as possible to some of our major interests. National chairmen will each have a conference hour when you can take your questions to them personally.

We hope that all the many state conventions being held this spring will be well attended and also that each state will send as large a delegation as possible to the National meeting in Denver on May 20-22.

*Minnetta A. Hastings.*

President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

## TUNE IN ON SATURDAY!

**H**OW about a share-the-Baxters campaign, with every one of you P.T.A. members serving as a one-man committee to spread the news about our National weekly radio broadcast? Even though your own family may be firm friends of the Baxters by now, many of your neighbors may still be unacquainted with Bill, Marge, Janey, Bud, and Sandy—those typical Americans whose experiences and problems sound so much like yours and those of the folks next door.

If some of your friends haven't met the Baxters, suggest that they tune in next Saturday. And if *you* still haven't made the Baxters a regular habit, why not get acquainted?

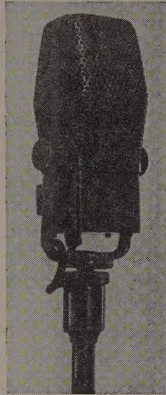
The hour for listening is 1:30 if you're on Central Standard Time. If you're in some other time zone, check with your local paper to get the corresponding time in your community.

If your local NBC outlet isn't listing the Baxters, perhaps it's because of a previous commercial commitment. But if you and your community show enough interest in the program, you can probably persuade the manager of the station to record the broadcast at the time it is on the air and then release it at some convenient time later.

## HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DENVER RESERVATION?

Have you sent in your application for hotel accommodations at the 1946 convention in Denver? If not, please get out your March *Bulletin* right away and fill in the application blank on page 7 of that issue. The names of all those who are going to Denver and the dates of their arrival and departure must be supplied to the hotels very soon. The housing committee is working earnestly to see that every delegate has a comfortable place to stay, but we need your cooperation in achieving this aim. Make your application today!

If you have already asked for hotel accommodations but find that you are unable to attend the convention, *be sure to cancel your reservations* so that someone else may be assigned to your space.



## GARDENS FOR VICTORY —Over Starvation

**N**OW during the planting season every conscientious American who has access to even the tiniest plot of ground should plan to be a victory gardener. There is a greater need for gardens in this first year of peace than there was during any year of the war. In fact, we are facing the most serious international food crisis of modern times, and if we lose the fight against hunger we shall truly endanger all that we gained in battle.

The importance of home gardening was emphasized recently at the National Garden Conference, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. on March 26-28 as a part of President Truman's famine emergency program. The conference had as its goal the remobilizing of victory gardeners so as to make more food available to the starving millions in Europe and Asia. In addition, the conference pointed out the benefits of a broad, continuing program of home and community improvement through gardening, both urban and rural.

Urge P.T.A. members to do their share of gardening this spring and summer. Remind them that aiding the world-wide food shortage is in itself an excellent reason for growing a garden, but there are many other reasons for supporting a garden program, as we found out during the war years.

The following statement urging a higher priority for UNRRA materials was recently sent to President Truman and Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture:

"The undersigned organization representatives now attending the UNRRA Council Meeting in Atlantic City strongly urge that executive orders which cannot be misinterpreted be issued without delay, directing that priority be given to UNRRA for the maximum quantity possible of unprocessed wheat, grain, and other essential foods, for whatever period is necessary to prevent death from famine and disease in the nations served by UNRRA. We ask this knowing that it will require self-discipline for all Americans, but with the full confidence that the conscience of our fellow citizens will not knowingly permit millions of people in Europe and the Far East to starve when the emergency can be met by sharing this nation's food stockpiles with those in dire need."

Among the signers of this request were representatives of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Education Association, the National Grange, the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, the American Jewish Conference, the National Peace Conference, and Americans United for World Organization.





# WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

The Central P.T.A. of Greensboro, North Carolina, has 136 subscribers to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*. How many subscribers has your association? If it has more than 136, please notify us so that we can announce your achievement in the next issue of this *Bulletin*.

## A Man's Opinion

The Allan Junior High School P.T.A. in Austin, Texas, recently elected J. H. Meyers, Jr., president of the association, the first Austin man to hold this office. Fifty per cent of the members on the executive committee also are men. In a radio address from the school auditorium, Mr. Meyers pointed out that "for a man, the parent-teacher association affords a closer relationship between his home, his children's school, and the community at large."

*Maintaining that it also gives him "a voice in shaping the purposes and policies of both school and community," Mr. Meyers emphasized the duty of every P.T.A. in keeping the public intelligently informed. "If any progress is made toward a sounder form of school organization, it will come as a result of public understanding and public support. Our schools will be exactly what we the people make them," Mr. Meyers concluded.*

## COLLEGES USE OUR UNO DIGEST

Are your local members well informed about the United Nations Organization? Are you following the accomplishments of the Security Council now convened at Hunter College in New York City? Have you made good use of the special UNO edition of the *Bulletin*?

This material is proving of value to many groups who wish to keep informed about our role in achieving world peace. Dr. Lloyd P. Young, president of the New Hampshire Congress, has been using it in his classes at Keene Teachers College, and many other requests for extra copies have come to the National Office. Among these is one from Mrs. T. F. Wiesen, president of the Carter Parent-Teacher Association in Lubbock, Texas. Her husband plans to use the UNO article in connection with his work as a professor of economics at Texas

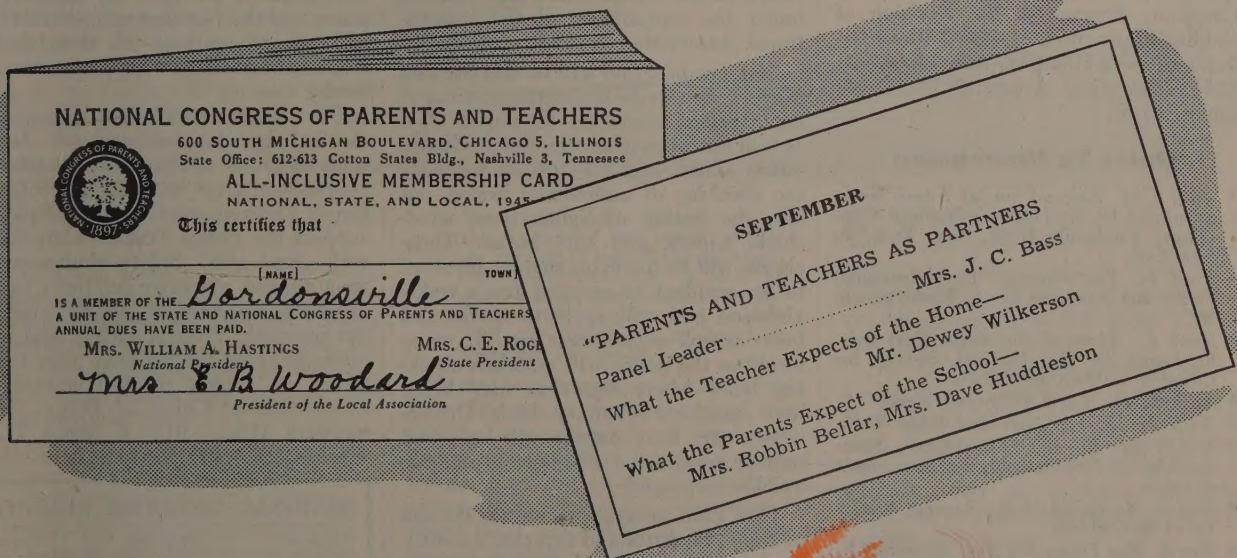
Technological College in Lubbock.

Interest in the material has been so great that the National Congress has now reprinted the information in a convenient-size pamphlet that will fit easily in your pocket or purse. Extra copies may be obtained from the National Office at a cost of five cents each.

## Bookmark Reminders

"I thought you'd be interested to know our program to promote the *National Parent-Teacher* and the Baxter hour really clicked," writes Mrs. Lytle P. Colvin, program chairman in the Detroit Council of P.T.A.'s. "The two magazine articles we dramatized were 'What Is a School?' from the October 1944 issue and 'Thus It Was in '97' from the February 1945 issue.

"Following the mock broadcast of the Baxter hour, our council chairman of radio distributed *bookmarks* to everyone." The bookmarks, decorated with the National Congress seal, gave the name, sponsor, station, and time of *The Baxters* and two Michigan programs of interest to P.T.A. members.



Here is a novel use for our P.T.A. membership card—as the cover for a tiny yearbook! The members of the Gordonsville Parent-Teacher Association, Gordonsville, Tennessee, have shown originality and practicality in combining in this way the membership card and program for the year. The convenient little booklet lists the monthly program topics, and you may notice that they are based on one of the *National Parent-Teacher* study courses, "The Family Builds the Future." It also includes a complete directory of officers and chairmen of the association. Congratulations to all those who had a share in its planning!





When the fourth meeting of the UNRRA council was held in Atlantic City beginning March 16, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was represented by its president, Mrs. William A. Hastings. She is shown seated fourth from the right. Other delegates in the photograph represent organizations of labor, businessmen, farmers, women, social workers, educators, librarians, and religious leaders.

## UNRRA

UNRRA's effort to relieve widespread hunger in Europe and Asia is so vital a topic that it should be discussed by every local parent-teacher association this spring. Information about the problems, organization, and work of UNRRA may be obtained by writing to A. E. Casgrain, director of the Division of Public Information, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1344 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C.

### Dates To Remember

- *April 8-14.* National Sunday School Week. Sponsored by the Laymen's National Committee, Vanderbilt Hotel, New York 16, New York.
- *April 14.* Pan American Day. Sponsored by the Pan American Union, Washington 6, D.C.
- *April 21.* Close of the Easter Seal Sale. Sponsored by the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults.
- *April 21-27.* World Fellowship Week.
- *April 27-May 4.* Boys and Girls Week.
- *May 1.* May Day—Child Health Day. Sponsored by the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor.
- *May 1.* Beginning of the Summer Round-Up of the Children.
- *May 3.* May Fellowship Day. Sponsored by the United Council of Church Women, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York.
- *May 5-12.* National and Inter-American Music Week.
- *May 5-12.* National Religious Book Week. Sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

## “Check Your Driving, Check Your Car, Check Accidents”

**B**ECAUSE the results of the Brake Check Program were so beneficial last spring, an even broader safety program is being planned for 1946 by the police of the United States and Canada, under the sponsorship of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The new program will be launched on May 15, two weeks before the opening of the touring season on Memorial Day. It will be known as the Police Traffic Safety Check and will include not only the checking of automobile brakes but also the testing of lights, tires, windshield wipers, and auto horns. These checks will be made on any car involved in an accident or stopped for a traffic violation and will apply to trucks and buses as well as passenger cars. In many localities the police will establish checking lanes where motorists may bring their cars for a voluntary check. Drivers whose cars have defects will be urged to have repairs and adjustments made as quickly as possible.

This 1946 program to reduce the toll of traffic fatalities and injuries is broadened in this way because of the alarming increase in traffic accidents during the past year, especially since the end of gasoline rationing in August 1945. In the last five months of the year, the number of deaths from traffic accidents rose as much as 44 per cent above the cor-

responding period in the previous year. The continued scarcity of new cars, the deplorable condition of older vehicles, the increase in traffic, the higher speeds now allowed, the need for highway repairs, and the fact that many drivers are still out of practice—all these factors combine to make 1946 a year for particular caution.

Our organization has been commended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the splendid cooperation given last year on the Brake Check Program, and we should plan to support the Police Traffic Safety Check with equal zeal. Safety chairmen will want to give extensive publicity to this program, which is so closely allied to our interests. Posters, leaflets, and other material about the program may be obtained on request to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Headquarters Office, 918 F Street N.W., Washington 4, D.C.

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# Food

**T**HE word *peace* has a hollow sound when children are starving in one part of the world while garbage cans are overflowing in another.

The Dutch youngster who lives mainly on sugar beets with a potato only now and then, the French mother who can buy just enough milk for her smallest baby, and the refugee family in Germany with one chunk of bread for dinner would look bewildered if they could see Americans throwing away the crusts of every loaf, ordering more food than they can eat, and blithely tossing out leftovers.

With food supplies near normal in many U.S. communities today, Americans tend to forget that millions around the world are starving or suffering from malnutrition—forgetting, too, that a stable, peaceful world cannot be built by desperate people.

Even though the war is over, victory over starvation is far from won. The worst droughts of fifty years have cut production of vitally needed grains by 50 per cent or more at a time when war-ravaged lands are still suffering from the destruction of farm machinery, when farmers still lack seed and fertilizer, and when thousands of acres are still honeycombed with mines.

**F**OR most Europeans, the most crucial period of the food crisis will be the next few months—until crops now in the ground are harvested. If harvests are abundant both in Europe and the United States, the famine in Europe will be somewhat eased. Even then, however, hunger will still grip India, China, and other Asiatic countries in 1947 as well as 1946.

UNRRA is doing everything possible to meet the emergency and help people to help themselves, and the United States has responded eagerly to many calls for help. Yet much more must still be done. Here are three steps that you and your P.T.A. can take now:

1. Use food wisely and efficiently in your own home. Americans have been asked to reduce their wheat consumption 40 per cent. In practical terms this simply means using three loaves of wheat bread instead of five. Or try stretching your wheat flour by mixing it with cornmeal, buckwheat flour, and soy flour. Nothing should be wasted that can be used.
2. Talk about the food crisis at parent-teacher meetings. Urge every family to buy less flour, eat less flour, and waste less bread.

3. Write to President Truman, asking that the type of food needed to help the starving be withheld at the source—in other words, that it never be allowed to get into channels of trade. If a surplus reaches the grocer's shelf, the temptation to hoard is sometimes too strong.

Parent-teacher members have a long-time interest in the problem of food, and the cooperation of our organization in the present crisis has been pledged by the president of the National Congress. It is, therefore, important for every local association to take action toward feeding a hungry world.

- It should be pointed out to all members that only basic foods are being shipped—wheat, rice, some other grains, fats, oils, and some cheap meats. Canned food and other commodities are too expensive and too bulky for shipment.

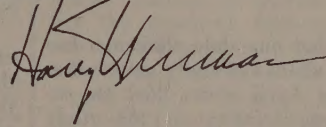
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1946

My dear Mrs. Hastings:

It is extremely pleasing to me to learn from your telegram that your membership is willing to support the proposed food program. I deeply appreciate the fine spirit which your expressions evidence.

Very sincerely yours,



Mrs. William A. Hastings,  
National President,  
The National Congress of Parents  
and Teachers,  
600 South Michigan,  
Chicago, Illinois.

**E**VERY effort is being made to help people grow their own green vegetables and fruit as well as basic crops. Cattle and poultry for breeding purposes are being supplied so that farmers' herds and flocks can be increased.

Not all the produce is being sent as a gift, for a number of nations have money with which to buy food. However, there simply is not enough food for all at present, so the problem is to allocate what is available to those countries in greatest need, whether it is purchased or given.

The war will not be truly won until freedom from want is gained. Parent-teacher members, therefore, must regard cooperation in the share-the-food campaign as a last step in their war work. Until famine has been defeated, there can be no true "peace on earth."



# Make the Most of These Helpful Study Courses

## EXPLORING THE PRESCHOOL PERIOD THE FAMILY REDISCOVERS ITSELF

### ANNOUNCING THE COURSES FOR 1946-1947

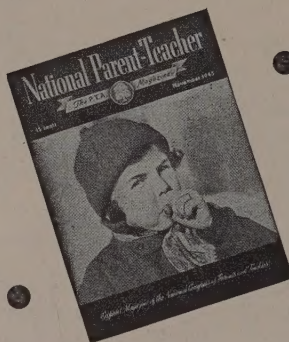
**E**ACH year the editors of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* secure the services of two of the country's outstanding child guidance and parent education specialists to direct two study courses for parent-teacher members, subscribers, and their friends.

Last year's courses, "The Precious Preschool Years" and "The Family Builds the Future," were used by thousands of study groups throughout the country, by parents in their own homes, by teachers alert to the value of the series, and by groups of parents who got together informally to study and discuss the articles.

• Here is what one state chairman has just written about the study course that ended in the April issue: *"Let me express my appreciation of the study course 'The Precious Preschool Years.' We have been having a preschool county council study group with one hundred and five members registered. Thirty-seven schools were represented. We not only had parents but a goodly number of principals and first-grade teachers as well. We hope you will have still more material on preschool parent education in the National Parent-Teacher as we do want to enlarge this service in Florida next year."*

We could quote hundreds of letters similar to this one, but there are other things we want to tell you about this year's courses.

**T**HE more we know or can learn about children, the better able we will be to help them. And nowhere can we find sounder, more helpful, or more timely information than in our own magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*. This is, of course, as it should be, for like our whole organization the editors of the *National Parent-Teacher* are a special-interest group. Only their special interest is to publish for parent-teacher members and subscribers the best material that can be secured from the best and soundest authorities. Furthermore, our editors know where to look for the material and how to get it. In fact, they get most of it first. New and basic information is put in the hands of *National Parent-Teacher* readers long before others even realize it is available or that



trends are pointing in a certain direction.

This quality of "being ahead of the crowd" will be especially noticeable in the two study courses now in preparation: "Exploring the Preschool Period" and "The Family Rediscovered Itself." Here are the subtopics for the preschool course:

- Baby Training Up to Date
- Does Your Child Do What the Others Do?
- What Toys Are Best?
- Children Take to the Arts
- What Are Children Afraid of?
- Behind the Emotional Scene
- The Beginnings of Sex Education
- It's a Wide, Wide World
- What Have We Discovered? (A summary article)

The topics for "The Family Rediscovered Itself" will be published in the May issue of the *Bulletin* along with more information about both courses. Please make it a point to inform every preschool, parent education, study group, and program chairman in each of our 25,000 P.T.A.'s about these courses. In the opinion of people who should know—child welfare specialists, adult education leaders, educators, and other professional workers—they are second to none in timeliness, authoritativeness, and completeness. Indeed, from a practical standpoint it really isn't necessary for local parent-teacher leaders and chairmen to look beyond their own *National Parent-Teacher* magazine for study group or program material.

• Of course, there are always commercial enterprises that hope to sell their particular published wares to parent-teacher groups. These concerns are likely to belittle parent-teacher publications and claim greater value for theirs. Don't be misled by such claims. Merely say, "Thank you, but we have our own magazine, and the courses in it are exactly what we want."

As in former years, attractive leaflets will be available free to groups planning to use one or both courses. Each leaflet will contain the list of subtopics, a short description of the course, and spaces for meeting dates.

The course titles and the subtitles will be copyrighted by the *National Parent-Teacher* in order to safeguard the material for the use of members and subscribers. It is hoped that only those groups that are actually using the courses will adopt the titles. Otherwise there will be confusion when we award certificates to those who have completed the magazine courses.

To all local presidents and chairmen of study groups, programs, and parent education we suggest that at your next P.T.A. meeting you officially adopt these two courses for use in your association! Send immediately for your supply of leaflets. (The free distribution will be ready May 15.) Make sure you have enough copies of the *National Parent-Teacher* to go around. Then your major program worry for the coming year will be over and you can sit back and prepare to enjoy the carefree summer days.

### U.S.-SWEDEN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

High school associations in your community may be interested in the U.S.-Sweden Friendship Club, organized to foster friendship through personal correspondence between individual young people of the United States and Sweden. The club already has about 6,000 members who are exchanging letters under the plan. Many of these are published in the *U.S.-Sweden Friendship News* issued by the National Society for Swedish Culture Abroad. Any interested student may enroll by writing to Friendship Clubs, Box 3013, Goteborg, Sweden, giving his name, address, age, and a few bits of personal information that will introduce him to his new friend across the sea.

When you have finished with your April copy of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*, please give it to some friend, neighbor, or teacher who is not a subscriber.



## BOYS AND GIRLS WEEK

National Boys and Girls Week on April 27–May 4 will mark the twenty-sixth annual observance of this youth celebration—an observance that is becoming more widespread each year. The theme for 1946 is “Building for Tomorrow with the Youth of Today.” The week serves to focus attention on the greatest natural resource of any community—its boys and girls. It directs the interest of every citizen toward the programs of schools, churches, and youth-serving agencies that work for the development of character and civic responsibility among America’s youth.

Boys and Girls Week is an excellent time to make P.T.A. members more alert to their responsibilities for service. It is also an opportune occasion for recruiting new leaders to carry on and expand our program of youth welfare. In many localities this week has been the starting point for year-round activities such as playgrounds, clubs, community centers, and other agencies planned especially for young people. It not only provides an opportunity for developing a closer understanding between children and parents but offers many possibilities for promoting the practice of democracy among our boys and girls. During this time, we may help youth to gain a new understanding of its responsibility in the world of the future.

Detailed suggestions for carrying out this program may be obtained free of charge from the National Boys and Girls Week Committee, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Illinois.

### Local President!

Have you filled in and returned to Mrs. Hastings the post card that was enclosed in the letter she sent to you recently. You were to let her know *how many men members* and *how many teachers* belong to your P.T.A. If you have forgotten to return the card up to now, will you please mail it the next time you pass a mail box?

## A LETTER FROM LONDON

“I think you may certainly count upon us in Great Britain as interested in creating an international relationship for a closer cooperation between home and school for the welfare of children,” writes Miss M. A. Thompson, secretary of the Home and School Council of Great Britain. She states that during the war many schools were forced to close and many homes and school associations disbanded. Now, however, there is an increased interest in education everywhere within the British Empire, and many calls for material come to the Home and School Council.

## Inter-American Music Week

ON the first Sunday in May the twenty-third observance of National and Inter-American Music Week will begin. Daily during the entire week of May 5–12, musical activities will hold the spotlight of attention in almost every community throughout America. The Honorary Music Week Committee, headed by President Truman, includes the name of the governor of every state and territory in the Union.

This year’s theme strikes an international note: “Emphasize the Need for Music in the Postwar World.” In addition to the long recognized cultural value of music, there is now a new awareness of its matchless power as a unifying social force. All who feel the urgent need for strengthening the spirit of neighborliness among the peoples of the world find in music the one language common to all nations. Music Week offers boundless opportunity for emphasizing this social mission of music and for bringing together the many cultural groups of each community.

Suggestions, along with pamphlets, window cards, and music seals, may be obtained by writing to C. M. Tremaine, secretary of National and Inter-American Music Week Committee, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10.

### Our Efforts Appreciated

Appreciation for the help given by the National Congress in the recent Victory Clothing Collection was genuinely expressed in a letter from Henry J. Kaiser, national chairman of the campaign. The committee’s efforts to send 100,000,000 garments to war victims overseas were “given strength by your cooperation, by the measures you have taken to mobilize your membership, and the support you have given through your organization’s magazine,” Mr. Kaiser said.

### Atomic Energy

How much do you really know about the Number One problem of the world today—the control and use of atomic energy?

This problem is at the bottom of much of the international fear and suspicion now widespread. The use of atomic energy as a military weapon in the hands of irresponsible governments can mean the suicide of civilization. And yet, eight months after Hiroshima, many Americans have ceased to worry about the horror of a future atomic war.

In reply to many questions about the attitude of the National Congress toward the control of atomic energy, it is pointed out that the National Board has taken a stand supporting UNO control for military purposes and opposing the May-Johnson bill. The Board favors the newer McMahon-Douglas bills providing for civilian control of all United States activities related to atomic energy.

Refer to the January, February, and April 1946 issues of National Parent-Teacher for excellent discussions on atomic energy in “What’s Happening in Education” by G. L. Maxwell.



## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

APRIL 21–27

THIS year National Garden Week will be observed during the week of April 21. The observance gives parent-teacher leaders an opportunity to point out the practical economy of home, school, and community gardening projects in a year when America’s food supply must be stretched to help feed the world’s hungry millions.

During the war many of us turned to gardening as an important means of aiding the nation’s food supply, and it was prophesied then that America would have 20,000,000 gardeners “for keeps” even when the emergency was over. With famine and starvation raging in Europe, India, and China these gardeners need not—in fact, must not—cease their labors. Food is still the prime essential.

Plan now for special meetings, gardening programs, radio talks, and newspaper stories that will instruct, interest, and guide amateur gardeners in food conservation and horticulture. Displays in shop windows can do much to stir the imagination of parents, adolescents, and even small boys and girls so that they will realize the crucial importance, this year, of planting and tending gardens.

April 22 is Arbor Day, when tree plantings on school grounds or in community parks should be arranged, if weather conditions permit. Cooperative projects may also be planned with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls, whose activities center on the great outdoors.

### Food Films

*Food—Secret of the Peace*, a 16mm sound film produced by the National Film Board of Canada has recently been released to the United States for the current share-the-food campaign. It shows why food is needed in Europe and Asia and how North America can help most effectively. The ten-minute film may be rented for \$1.25 from the distributor, Brandon Films, Inc., 1600 Broadway, New York City, N.Y.

An older Canadian-produced film on the subject of food-sharing, *A Friend for Supper*, is also available from the same distributor for a rental fee of \$1.50.



# OUR FIRST POSTWAR *Convention*

THEME: "LAYING FIRM FOUNDATIONS" . . . . . DATES: MAY 20-21-22

**N**EXT month the climax of our parent-teacher year will be reached when the annual convention convenes in Denver on May 20-22. Plans centering around the 1946 theme, "Laying Firm Foundations," point toward an exceptionally inspiring convention this spring. The meeting will be the first opportunity in many months for leaders to meet together and share their problems and suggestions with co-workers from all parts of the country.

Mornings will be devoted to general sessions featuring two or three speakers of renown in their particular fields. At the opening session on Monday, delegates will be welcomed to Colorado by Mrs. Milo Wilson, president of the Colorado Congress; Inez Johnson Lewis, state superintendent of public instruction; and Charles E. Greene, superintendent of the Denver schools. Dr. S. R. Laycock, president of the Canadian Federation of Home and School, will bring greetings from our neighbors to the north.

## WORKSHOP GROUPS

• The convention will also feature workshops to be held from 8:00-9:30 on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. National officers will preside at these workshop groups assisted by the various chairmen. Workshop topics include parent-teacher procedures, state congress bulletins, Congress publications and the *National Parent-Teacher*, rural service, preschool service, and high school service.

## NEW OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

• The election of officers will take place on Tuesday morning, when a new National president, first vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be chosen by the convention body. Chairmen for the new administration will be elected on Tuesday evening.

Speakers at Tuesday morning's symposium on education will be Dr. Ben M. Cherrington, now on leave for work with the Department of State in preparation for U.S. participation in UNESCO; Dr. Harold R. Benjamin, director of the Division of International Educational Relations, U.S. Office of Education; and Dr. Paul Witty, professor of education, Northwestern University.

## SECTIONAL MEETINGS

• On Monday and Tuesday afternoons there will be sectional meetings instead of general sessions. The first three sections will deal with "Home and Family Life," "Education," and "Health." Speakers will be Dr. Ernest G. Osborne, Department of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University; G. L. Maxwell, dean of administration at the University of Denver; Frank Stafford, U.S. Office of Education; and W. Roy Breg, executive secretary of the Allied Youth organization.

Music and pageantry on Tuesday evening will emphasize the interracial and intercultural aspects of our American life. Dr. Gregor Ziemer, noted American educator and author of *Education for Death*, will give the main address, after which he will conduct a youth panel.

The topics of the two sectional meetings on Tuesday afternoon will be "Community Planning" and "Interracial and Intercultural Planning." Lee F. Johnson of the National Housing Conference; Judge Philip Gilliam, Denver Juvenile Court; Dr. Francis Brown, American Council on Education; Takao Yamauchi, Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers; and representatives of other racial groups will be the speakers at these sections.

## SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

• General sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings will be open to the public so that all interested parents and teachers in the Denver area may attend. The two main speeches at the Monday evening session will deal with the control of atomic energy and the role of the United Nations in preserving peace. Experts on each of these topics have been invited to address the delegates.

## CHAIRMEN'S CONFERENCE HOUR

• National chairmen will have a large place on the convention program in

order that they may share their knowledge with the delegates and any of the state chairmen who may be present. A chairmen's conference hour has been arranged at 4:30-5:30 on both Monday and Tuesday afternoons. During this hour anyone who has a specific problem may ask questions and receive suggestions in person from the National chairman. Half of the chairmen will hold conferences on the first afternoon, and the rest will be scheduled for the second day. The program committee hopes that these informal conversations will be especially valuable to both the delegates and the National chairmen.

On Wednesday morning Dora Lewis, president of the American Home Economics Association, and C. C. Burlingame, M.D., chairman of the Committee on Public Education of the American Psychiatric Association, will speak. Dr. Maycie K. Southall, president of the Association for Childhood Education, will discuss "Planning the Future for Children," at the afternoon session.

## SPECIAL TOURS

• A sightseeing tour into the magnificent Rockies around Denver has been arranged. The Denver County Council will be host to the delegates for a mountain trip on Thursday after the convention ends. Arrangements for longer tours may be made with travel agencies.

## BANQUET

• At the Wednesday evening dinner a representative of UNRRA has been invited to tell the convention body about the conditions in Europe that need our assistance.

This closing banquet is an outstanding highlight of convention days—a farewell to those who will complete their service to the National Congress and a welcome to those who are to carry on in "laying firm foundations" for a better world.